GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2860
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
DISPLAY OF PESTICIDES LIMIT ON FOOD ITEMS
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make mandatory to display the limit of pesticides on the labels of food items under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) As per rule 32 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, the names of ingredients used in the product in descending order of their composition by weight or volume as the case may be are provided on the label. Since, pesticides are contaminants and not ingredients of the food products; hence mention of their limit on the label has not been prescribed. However, Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for different pesticides in various food articles have been prescribed under rule 65 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, & Rules, 1955 is carried out by the States./UTs. governments which take action in case of any violation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules.